



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, November 1, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most TV networks gave top play to a final report put together by a taskforce commissioned by Tokyo Governor Koike regarding a review of sports facilities to be used in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Based on the panel's recommendation, the governor will enter discussions with the IOC, the GOJ, and the Tokyo Olympic Organizing Committee to seek a reduction in spending by possibly using alternate locations.

## SECURITY

### GOJ projects Ospreys at Yokota to have minimal adverse impact

NHK reported online that in response to a question from an opposition politician, the GOJ has put together a position paper on the CV-22 Ospreys to be deployed at Yokota AB starting next year, highlighting its assessment that the planned flight training by the USAF tilt-rotor planes over Nagano and other areas will have no "substantial adverse effects" on the local residents or environment. The GOJ is still reportedly set to ask the U.S. military to take appropriate steps to ensure aircraft safety and minimize any inconvenience caused by Osprey operations.

### Inada says SDF's rushing to the rescue of foreign troops in South Sudan implausible

On a purported GOJ plan beginning in late November to allow SDF personnel in South Sudan to go to the defense of UN officials and aid workers if they come under attack, Yomiuri took up press remarks this morning by Defense Minister Inada, who said operations to assist foreign troops probably will not be carried out. She said: "SDF members belonging to an engineering battalion are currently based in South Sudan. The new mission will be carried out from a humanitarian standpoint on an emergency request basis within the scope of their capabilities. Although the possibility cannot be ruled out, it is highly implausible that they will go to the defense of foreign troops."

### **U.S. military says defective canister caused last year's fire at Sagami Depot**

TV-Asahi reported that the U.S. military has finalized its investigation into the fire that occurred in August 2015 at Sagami General Depot, finding that a defect in a canister of compressed oxygen apparently set off the fire. According to the Sagami municipal government, which was briefed on the results of the U.S. probe by the Ministry of Defense this morning, oxygen apparently leaked out of a defective valve of the container. The leak of oxygen shook the container, causing a spark that ignited a fire when it came into contact with dust. The U.S. military reportedly underscored that there are no oxygen cylinders currently being stored at the facility and that enhanced systems are now in place for notifying local authorities in the event of similar accidents in the future.

- [Japan to extend intercept order for N. Korean missiles by 3 months](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Never-ending roar over residential areas near Atsugi Base](#) (Asahi)
- [Interview with ATLA Commissioner Hideaki Watanabe](#) (Mainichi)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **China exploring another gas field in East China Sea**

Several TV stations took up a press conference this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, in which he disclosed that China appears to be carrying out operations to develop another underwater natural gas field in the East China Sea. The government spokesman said the GOJ has already lodged a protest with the Chinese government.

### **Japan, ROK resume GSOMIA talks for first time in four years**

Several broadcasters reported that Japanese and South Korean officials met today in Tokyo to discuss the conclusion of a bilateral general security of military information agreement (GSOMIA), quoting Foreign Minister Kishida as saying this morning: "Enhancing security cooperation between Tokyo and Seoul is very important in the face of North Korea's continued missile and nuclear development."

- [Rush of foreign leaders visiting Japan aimed at "encircling" China](#) (Sankei)

- [Japan protests over Chinese drillship activity in E. China Sea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's state-backed lender tightens screening for Russian borrowers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't council meets for first time to study details of economic cooperation with Russia](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Russia's Upper House Speaker suggests resolving territorial issue with return of two islands](#) (Nikkei)
- [Hokkaido governor will not insist on simultaneous return of four Northern Islands](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Commentary: Clinton's presidency, GOP-led Congress best choice for Asia](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on Japan-Soviet Union joint declaration](#) (Mainichi)
- [Indonesian maritime minister eyes cooperation with Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [More Japanese view U.S. as in decline and threat to nation, survey shows](#) (The Japan Times)

## **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 31](#) (Nikkei)
- [DP Secretary General Noda working to restore opposition united front](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Outnumbering opponents in Diet will not earn nation's support for constitutional revision](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Komura](#) (Asahi)

## **ECONOMY**

### **Abe dismisses opposition's concern about food safety under TPP**

TV-Asahi's "Hodo Station" on Monday took up Diet debate on the TPP, highlighting qualms raised by an opposition lawmaker about whether the regional free trade deal will undermine food safety in Japan. The politician grilled cabinet ministers over the possibility of a surge in imports of food using

such technologies as growth hormones, feed additives, and genetic engineering, speculating that the GOJ will not be able to ban such imports if it accedes to the TPP. Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Ishihara stressed that Japan may enhance regulations to exclude potentially hazardous foods such as “Frankensalmon.” PM Abe also said: “The TPP is not an agreement that will force Japan to change its regulations or make it difficult to adopt regulatory changes that are deemed necessary.... There is absolutely no chance that unsafe foods will appear on dining tables in Japan.”

- [\*\*Gist of interpellations at Lower House special committee on TPP, Oct. 31\*\*](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [\*\*Cartoon: TPP\*\*](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [\*\*Japanese shippers seek cost savings from consolidation\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [\*\*Merger still leaves Japanese shippers in middle of pack\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [\*\*More foreign students finding jobs in Japan after graduation\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SCIENCE

- [\*\*Japan demonstrates leadership in drumming up support for whaling\*\*](#) (Yomiuri)
- [\*\*Editorial: National discussions important for continuing scientific research whaling\*\*](#) (The Japan News)

## SOCIETY

### [\*\*GOJ to conduct survey on discrimination against foreigners\*\*](#)

Yomiuri reported online on the Justice Ministry’s announcement on Monday that it will conduct a survey in mid-November covering 18,500 foreign residents in Sapporo, Tokyo, Osaka, and about 30 other locations to see whether they have ever experienced any form of discrimination, such as offensive remarks or refusal of service at restaurants or other facilities on account of their ethnicity. This is the first survey of this kind to be conducted in Japan. The ministry plans to use the results to formulate effective measures to combat hate speech and other prejudice against foreigners.

- [\*\*Majority say women should continue working after having children, Cabinet Office survey\*\*](#) (Nikkei)

## OPINION POLLS

- [75% say that “Article 9 is why Japan has not used armed force in 71 years,” Kyodo News poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [55% opposed to constitutional amendment under Abe administration, Kyodo News poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## TV PROGRAMS

### [Japanese technology helps unravel mystery of pyramids](#)

NHK's “Close-up Gendai Plus” reported on an international project called “Scan Pyramids” to solve the mysteries of the pyramids in Egypt by using innovative technology such as “muon radiography.” This equipment receives muon particles that pass through the object. Scanned images of the Great Pyramid of Khufu apparently point to the existence of a previously undiscovered chamber, perhaps a corridor leading to the center of the pyramid. This “muography” developed by a team of Japanese scientists is expected to reveal the inner structure of the massive pyramid, 90% of which has remained a mystery since it was built 4,500 years ago.

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